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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th April 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hablu Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 16th April has the following:—

Persian lethargy and indifference. What is it that has made the Boers so bold and fearless as to oppose skilfully, and with extraordinary preparations, the mighty England which, together with its dependencies, owns eight hundred crores of subjects? They are fighting for their home and independence. Yes, every one ought to understand what has led the Boers to undertake such a task. It is knowledge and patriotism which have made them what they are. It is strange how the Boers, one and all, well know in what their national interest consists. It is to be borne in mind that the comfort which a nation enjoys under a just government is the cause of national enlightenment. Just government brings comfort, and comfort gives opportunities for an exchange of thoughts and ideas. By exchange of thoughts a nation can do immense good to their country and to their society. For every individual is then at liberty to say what he thinks good for his country, and his opinion cannot fail to be heard. It is precisely this reciprocation of thought that has enabled a handful of Boers to successfully stand against an enemy possessing vast numerical superiority.

O nobles of Persia! time is short and opportunity does not always come. You have passed very many years in sleep, and you have only a few years before you. Open your eyes and make preparations for holding your own in the struggle for existence. May God bring round those selfish officials who are ruining Persia and her people. In the opinion of the European historiographer Persia has six hundred thousand infantry, including the militia. It is said that military reform is going on in Persia, but she will still be deficient in the art of warfare if she does not teach it to her people. What will she do with first-class arms and ammunition when there are none to use them? The Persian Government ought to bring about a change in the present system of administration. It is the sad negligence and indolence of the Persian nobles that have made their country so weak.

The same paper has also the following:—

O indolent Persians awake! There was a time when the Musalmans were a ruling nation. They were the masters of Arabia, Africa, and even a portion of Europe and Asia. They sowed the seeds of unity and love of God in the world at the point of the sword and the spear. They were predominant everywhere, and the potentates of the world acknowledged their supremacy. Now, where is their glory, and what has become of their wealth and position? They have been hurled down from their lofty position into the depths of disgrace. It ought to be understood that our indolence and lethargy have brought about this state of things. The Powers who are rivals of Persia are always increasing the stock of their knowledge and doing what will improve them. The infinite varieties of articles of European manufacture puzzle us. We buy the tinsel, which does not last long, and pay a high price for it. We deal a death blow to our national prosperity by thus facilitating their sale in our country. We even buy from foreign manufacturers lamps for our masjids, carpets on which we say our prayers, cloths for covering the corpses, and turbans for our imams. What an ignominy! What a disgrace! In fact, we are shameless and we do not remember that we shall have to appear before God and the Prophets on the day of judgment in these unclean clothes, which have been prepared by the unfaithful. The Koran and other Musalman holy books, which even a Musalman is forbidden to touch with the hand before performing his ablutions, are now being published by Hindus and Christians. Does it not become us to be on our guard? Does it not become us to supply all our wants by our own efforts? Do you think that it is the duty of your rulers to remove these wants and weave cloth and print books for you? You are certainly wrong if you think so. You must manage your own affairs under the direction of your *alims*. You are to hear from them what countries have the advantage of railways, and wherefrom come all those goods which you use. When the prosperity of a Government depends upon the accumulation of wealth by its subjects, it is the duty of that Government to encourage trade and commerce among them. O, brethren, when did you endeavour to remove your wants

HABLU MATEEN,
April 16th, 1900.

your own efforts and meet with obstacles from your ruler? We know that the Shah is always anxious to make you happy and wealthy; but if you do not help yourselves he cannot help you. Let the bye-gones be bye-gones and let the present be with you. Hear what the Shah says, and you will see that he is anxious to promote knowledge and industry in the country.

HABLU MATEEN,
April 16th, 1900.

2. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Persians have actively applied themselves to increasing the resources of Persia's industrial present and their country. It does not seem however that future.

they will be successful in their attempt, unless they can do something which is essential to success. It is undoubtedly true tha Persia is very fertile and productive. It abounds besides in numerous valuable mines. The first thing necessary for Persia is that a sufficient number of law courts should be established to enforce the Muhammadan law, so that the people may be saved from the high-handedness of the hakims and officials. The Shah personally knows nothing of official high-handedness and oppression. It is for this oppression that the people are looking after their lives and property instead of after the welfare of their community. This statement is proved by the fact that every year a large number of Persians leave their homes for ever, not because their country fails to supply them with food, but because they are unable to put up with official high-handedness. There should be something more than the industrial prosperity of Persia: she should acquire a knowledge of the arts, agriculture, and trade. Many Persian youths have acquired the knowledge, but for want of encouragement their knowledge is rusting away. There are many Persian masters of science and art who will return to their fatherland after completing their scholastic career. If Persia in her present condition receives encouragement from the united effort of her people, she is sure to prosper very soon.

HABLU MATEEN.

3. Hearing that a European lady has dug out a considerable amount of treasure from the fort of Shush, with the permission of the late Shah, the same paper observes that it is a shame that while European ladies have the knowledge as to where the treasures of the past generations of Persia are deposited, the Persians themselves are ignorant of these treasures.

HABLU MATEEN.

4. The same paper has the following:—

The Musalmans of Java. The night is dark; high waves and destructive whirlwinds are approaching. How are we to know under such circumstances those that are walking with agility ashore?

Everywhere the Musalmans are indifferent to what is going on with their co-religionists elsewhere. Perhaps they will remain indifferent when they will hear of the oppression which was committed upon their brethren in Java by the Dutch. Java is populated mostly by Musalmans who are famous for piety and truthfulness. But seeing that they are helpless, the Dutch Government has begun to ill-treat them in every way. They have been made to conform to laws which are calculated to do violence to their religion. The Dutch Government is levying a blackmail from those Musalmans who go on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Their public prayers are being interfered with by the Dutch police. They are being robbed in various ways. Many of them came to live under the British Government, leaving their mother-country. But they are being forcibly prevented from emigrating. In 1860 some eighty thousand Java Musalmans were ready to emigrate from Java; but the Dutch Government brought a charge of rebellion against them, and cut most of them to pieces and imprisoned the rest. The Christian missionaries are employing various tricks to persuade the Musalmans to embrace Christianity.

The Musalmans of Java have applied to the Sultan to save them from oppression by the Dutch Government. It is hoped the Sultan will try to redress their grievances.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1900

5. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April says that England had no other alternative than to fight with the Boers, who proved an obstacle in the way of her progress. Some say that God is on the side of the Boers, and therefore England has not been able to defeat them. But we say that England at first failed to ascertain the fighting strength of the Boers, and the English Generals were sadly deficient in the art of modern warfare. Moreover the arms and ammunition

which were used in the Boer war by the English were not of superior manufacture. The English, therefore, could not defeat the Boers. When Lord Roberts will again take the field with his characteristic energy and skill, the Boers will surely be defeated.

6. Referring to the report that the Boers are raiding into Basutoland for cattle, and have thereby so much offended the British instigation of the Basutos that they are about to fight with them, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April suspects that the British are secretly instigating the Basutos.

7. A correspondent of the *Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes as follows in continuation of what he wrote in the preceding issue (*vide Report on Native Papers* for the 21st April 1900, paragraph 8):—

Ambassador. Do the Persians read the writings of the *Habul Mateen*, and do they accept its leadership?

The Persian: Do not ask, sir, what this fellow is doing. The paper is doing the work of a magician with the mind of the Persian people, who have begun to take an interest in newspapers. The Persians hitherto believed that newspapers contained only fiction. Some people disallowed the reading of them and called their editors *kafirs*. The dignitaries of Persia thought it an honour to subscribe to newspapers, as they contained lyric poetry. When the *Habul Mateen* was started, there were only one or two newspapers in Persia, which, consulting the wishes of their readers, did not go beyond the ordinary scope of newspaper writing—which was the writing of praise. They had nothing to do with political and social questions; and the Persians, as a nation, therefore took no interest in these questions. As for the *alims*, they were never in touch with newspapers. The *Habul Mateen* has done something extraordinary. It has brought about a revolution in the Persian mind. To tell the truth, within a few days it has been able to convince the Persian public of the necessity of reading newspapers. The Persian papers nowadays deal with political, social, religious, and moral questions affecting Persia and her people. They no longer satisfy themselves with publishing fulsome flattery and empty praise. Their style is now very elegant, and even common Persians can understand them. On my way to the house of Abdul Azim I saw that the owner of a refreshment shop had procured a man to read out the *Habul Mateen* and other newspapers to those who came to partake of the refreshments furnished by the shop. The audience express their sorrow whenever anything relating to the misery of the Persians is read out.

In fact, all this shows that the Persians have begun to take an interest in the politics of their own country, and it may be hoped that in the next thirty years they will gain the long-lost position occupied by their forefathers.

8. A correspondent of the same paper quotes the following from the

Hitavadi,
April 20th, 1900.

HABUL MATEEN,
April 23rd, 1900.

Persia and Afghanistan in
Anglo-Russian politics.

Ebrat:— India, Persia, and Afghanistan are gradually establishing an inseparable connection among

themselves. If England looks upon India as her life and soul, she must understand that it is Persia and Afghanistan who can preserve that life and soul. They are therefore very important kingdoms. If Russia continue to concentrate her troops in Central Asia, a great war will take place in one of these countries. Bloodshed however is shocking to us, as it is shocking to all human beings. But we are always for maintaining good faith, although the affair is not going on as it ought to go on.

The correspondent continues:—

Mistakes committed by the great are great. What has actually taken place from time to time has been punishment inflicted upon England, and something more will take place if she continue to treat Persia indifferently. If she had not acted ignorantly by preventing Persia from occupying Herat, and if she had entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with Persia, to-day her commerce in Turkistan and Persia would not have met with disgrace and disappeared. Persia must not befriend any European Power which is very selfish. Persia and Turkey could save India from being conquered by Russia. Has one understood the meaning of the writer? When Russia, to speak the truth, will conquer Persia and Afghanistan, she will be considered as the

HABUL MATEEN.

conqueror of the world, because she will forbid European commerce in these countries, which is the life and soul of Europe.

9. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April says that the Transvaal war is a war between countless English

The Boer war.

troops on one side and a handful of Boers on the

other. But still some say that it is impracticable for England to conquer the Transvaal. It is six months since the Boer war was declared, but it seems that it will take one year more to decide the issues of the war. The Transvaal war may be divided into two periods. One of these has been closed and the war has now entered upon the second period. The first scene commenced with the death of General Symons and the siege of Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley by the Boers, and was closed by the relief of those places and the capture of Bloemfontein by the English and the surrender of Cronje. The prominent figures during the first period were on the side of the Boers Cronje, and Joubert, and on the side of the English Generals Symons, White, Buller, French, Methuen, and Lord Roberts. Poor Symons died, and White, Methuen, Buller, and French proved themselves unequal to the task; but old Roberts, with his characteristic energy, acted so heroically that he won the applause of all. Now the war has assumed a new phase. On the Boer side Krüger, Steyn, Botha and Olivier have taken the field, and on the English side Roberts, Kitchener, Buller and French. Let us watch the progress of the war.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
April 18th, 1900.

10. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 18th April complains of a recrudescence of dacoity in the Ghatal subdivision

Dacoity in Ghatal.

of the Midnapore district. There has been a series

of dacoities, which the police have not yet been able to trace. On the 1st and the 2nd April last attempts were made to commit dacoity but without success. Mr. Faulder, when he was the District Magistrate, virtually disarmed the Ghatal public, and this has led to the present prevalence of dacoity.

MEDINI BANDHAV.

**SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
April 18th, 1900.

11. The same paper complains of the prevalence of gambling in Chand-

Gambling in a village in the rakona, a village in the Midnapore district. The Midnapore district.

local police seem to be indifferent.

12. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th April has the following in a report on the riot

The Bayriya riot.

at Bayriya, Patna :—

The condition of Bayriya is extremely lamentable. The village is almost deserted, and the crops have not yet been harvested. There is melancholy on every face and anxiety in every mind. An old man, tears in his eyes, gave the reporter the following version of the riot:—On the day previous to the last *Holi* festival, some low-class people of the village were returning from the Jamalpur distillery. They met some people on the road, and, as usual during the *Holi* festival, cut jokes at their expense. They did not know that the men whom they were thus taunting were police officers in plain clothes. The police officers were offended with the jokes, and threatened the offenders with punishment. Next day the men were out in the fields, and the women were cooking their food, when firing was heard, and five European police officers with a posse of military police arrived on the scene. There was a panic in the village, and people fled in all directions and were shot by the military police. Those who were in the fields came back and found their houses broken open and looted. The police arrested some villagers and carried away their property, including some cartloads of grain. The police even dug up the floors of houses with the object of finding out concealed property.

This version of the riot was corroborated by some other villagers, and the reporter himself found many corroborative proofs. He found houses the doors of which had been carried off. He found floors of houses dug open and boxes and trunks broken open. The widow of Sibohari Matho has been robbed of all she possessed. The houses of Bihari Lal, Suryya Koyari, Sufi, Ganapat Mali, Kedaran Matho, bore clear traces of having been robbed. One Mewa Mistri had concealed Rs. 3,000 under the floor of his house. The floor was

dug open, and the whole amount carried away. Rupees 1,200 kept in his box had also disappeared. These statements will be proved at the trial.

The arms produced by the police are old and useless. Three rusty swords and some *lathis* were all the dangerous weapons which the police could produce. Of the people arrested, one is under twenty and two are very old. The reporter has also ascertained that there is a quarrel between the zamindars and raiyats of Bayriya, and it is said that the zamindars are at the bottom of this police oppression. The brother of a zamindar's tahsildar is a police constable, and it is he who has been instrumental in bringing about this disturbance. It is a relief however that the Inspector-General of Police has already taken up the case in right earnest, and has suspended 34 constables with the view of prosecuting them.

13. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 18th April wishes to see all the prostitutes who live near the educational institutions in Barisal town removed to some other place.

These unfortunate women employ touts with the object of procuring them visitors. The example of the Magistrate of Patna, who has ordered the removal of prostitutes from the public streets in Patna and Bankipore, ought to be followed by the authorities in Barisal.

14. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 19th April complains of *gunda* oppression in Calcutta. On the 14th April last a gentleman was stopped and gagged by *gundas* on

the southern side of the Beadon Park and robbed of his watch and chain and money. No constable was to be found near the scene of occurrence. It is sometimes insinuated that such robbery is committed with the knowledge of the constables, and the recent conviction of some constables who were charged with theft lends colour to this insinuation.

15. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes that a serious riot was averted at Damukdia Ghât on the occasion of the last *Bakr-id* festival. The Musalman khalassies

renewed their application to the Subdivisional Officer for slaughtering cows at Damukdia on the occasion of the *Bakr-id* festival. The Hindus however were determined not to allow the Musalmans to carry out their intention. The Subdivisional Officer appeared with a posse of armed police constables. The Hindus represented to him that Damukdia, with the exception of the railway line, was a Hindu zamindari, and they would not allow the Musalmans to slaughter cows at that place. The Subdivisional Officer reported the matter to the District Magistrate, but went away after giving the Musalmans permission to perform the *korbani* at the ghât. About three thousand Hindu coolies asked the local zamindars for permission to forcibly prevent the Musalmans from performing the *korbani*; but they were restrained, and thus a serious riot was averted. The Hindus have resolved to go to law.

16. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April understands that there is a slaughter-house near the Barrackpore cantonment, and cattle-lifting has become very prevalent at Dhitra, a village very close to Barrackpore. Dhitra

is a Hindu village, and it is certainly objectionable that there should be a slaughter-house in such a place.

17. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April is sorry that, even under the peaceful British rule, oppression is sometimes committed. The people of the village Malda in the Champaran district have left their homes,

being unable to bear the oppression committed by a European who has taken a lease of that village. The gentleman twice preferred a criminal charge against those villagers. The police inspector who came to the village to make enquiries found the residents leaving it. He tried to persuade them to come back, but in vain.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

18. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 19th April notices with regret the appointment of Babu Pramatha Nath Datta to the post of translator to the District Judge's Court, Khulna, in supersession of the claims of Babu

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 18th, 1900.

NAVAYUG,
April 19th, 1900.

HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1900.

BANGAVASI,
April 21st, 1900.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 23rd, 1900.

KHULNA,
April 19th, 1900.

The translatorship of the District Judge's Court, Khulna.

Syama Charan Mitra, record-keeper of that court. The Judge had promised to promote Syama Charan Babu, and to disappoint him in this manner when an opportunity for promotion presented itself has therefore been wrong and unjust. Ministerial officers in the courts are generally very poorly paid, and it becomes a matter of regret if their just claims to promotion are overlooked.

HITAVADI.
April 20th, 1900.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April complains that Maulvi Laftar Rahman Bahadur, Munsif of Giridih, is not on good terms with the local bar. The authorities should transfer him to some other place. It is said that the munsif himself is willing to go elsewhere.

(d.—Education.

VISWADUT,
April 18th, 1900.

20. With reference to the proposal to take away the degree of a graduate of the Calcutta University convicted of a criminal offence, the *Viswadut* [Calcutta] of the 18th April has the following:—

The proposal to take away the degree of a graduate convicted of a criminal offence.

A graduate who has committed a criminal offence may be outcasted from educated society, but it will be highly objectionable to deprive a man of the fruit of years of study and work simply because he has been convicted of a criminal offence. Innocent people are not often convicted and punished in our courts.

SANJIVANI,
April 19th, 1900.

21. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 19th April continues the article on the bifurcation of studies in high schools:—

The bifurcation scheme.

According to the scheme as it now stands, boys in the Entrance schools will have to decide in their third class whether they would thenceforward prosecute a literary or a practical course of studies. Those who select either of the two practical courses will have no opportunity in their future career of retracing their steps and taking up the literary course, because no Sanskrit will be taught in the B and C courses, whilst Sanskrit is one of the essential subjects in the A or literary course. Is it possible for boys at the early age of twelve or thirteen to decide what they should do in after-life? Or is it possible even for guardians to find out the peculiar aptitude or inclinations of their boys before they have passed their childhood? Young men in this country who wish to enter a learned profession are allowed to make their choice after they have passed the First Arts examination, that is to say, when their power of judgment has been somewhat developed; and the same arrangement should have been made in respect of the clerical and engineering course. Mr. Pedler has indeed placed the boys in the Entrance schools in a difficulty by introducing his bifurcation scheme from the second class. Boys possessed of any aptitude for high education will, under the proposed scheme, take to one of the practical courses in the hope of a small though humble livelihood. Ambition in a young man is very praiseworthy, and Lord Curzon himself has said so more than once. To rob the young men of India of this excellent impulse in the matter of education would be not only to make them worthless but also to discountenance high education. A number of schools already exist in Calcutta for teaching those who wish to take service as clerks, the arts of shorthand-writing, type-writing, and précis-writing, and the number of such schools certainly will go on increasing. Mr. Pedler would have attained his object by simply systematising these schools, and allowing them to take pupils who have passed the Entrance examination. The number of clerks required in the country is not unlimited. If every youth were to fit himself as a clerk, the supply of clerks would soon exceed the demand, and where employers now pay twenty rupees to a clerk, they would get a better man on ten rupees a month. In their eagerness and anxiety to secure a sure livelihood, the young men of this country would thus not only not secure it but would also lose the benefits of high education. They will not enjoy that peace and contentment which high education brings, and which raises him above all sorts of meanness.

The ill-educated men whom Mr. Pedler's scheme will produce will fill the country with discontent. In attempting to put a check upon high education, Mr. Pedler is going to rob the country of its peace and contentment.

Most of the Zilla schools will teach only the B or the C course, and the private schools will follow their example. The A course will consequently be

abolished from almost all Government schools and colleges, and will be taught only in a few private colleges. But these colleges can never for want of funds entertain a competent staff to teach the higher college classes. The scheme, it is true, leaves boys and schools perfectly free to select their courses; but the option given will work no good if in its exercise the lower classes do not take up the B and C courses and the higher classes the A course.

The Calcutta University should not recognise and adopt the scheme. The University is the custodian of high education, and high education does not mean book-keeping, precis-writing, &c. The University can only conduct the examinations in the B and C courses on behalf of Government. But these examinations should not be regarded as University examinations or parts of University examinations. Nor should these examinations be held simultaneously with the University examinations, for those who are plucked at the University examinations would then have no opportunity of appearing at the practical examinations. If the scheme is worked in this manner, it will not interfere with high education. But if it is intended to make the B and C course examinations alternative with the Entrance examination, a second language, such as Sanskrit, Persian, or some other language, should be substituted for history in those courses, and candidates who pass either of these examinations should be allowed to appear at the F. A. examination. When science will be taught, it will be unnecessary to teach physical geography separately, and Professor Huxley's science primer, too, may be omitted from the course. There will be no harm in making the B and C course examinations alternative with the Entrance examination if the following subjects are included in those two courses:—

1. Modern English.
2. Mathematics—Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, and surveying.
3. Second language.
4. (a) History (India and England), geography, physical geography, and Huxley's science primer.
- (b) Chemistry and physics.
5. Drawing and practical geometry.

If Mr. Pedler fails to see his way to accept the above scheme, it will be clear that his object is to depreciate the value of the Entrance examination, by making it alternative with an examination much inferior to it in quality. The Government has made up its mind and issued its orders. We can now only look up to the University to save us. The leaders of public opinion should lose no time in making their opinions known. Unfortunately Babus Surendra Nath Banerji and Narendra Nath Sen, and some other leading gentlemen, have assented to the exclusion of Sanskrit from the practical course. But the editor of the *Hindoo Patriot* has been able to realise the injury that Mr. Pedler's scheme will do to the country. Mr. Slack, the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, who considered the scheme on behalf of the Lieutenant-Governor, has spent the whole of his life in executive work and never had any connection with education. The Lieutenant Governor it is hoped will listen to our complaint.

2. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes as follows:—

The proposal to take away the degrees of graduates convicted of criminal offence. At the last annual meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University, Dr. Gibbons moved a resolution to the effect that the Senate should

again apply to the Government for power to deprive a graduate convicted of a criminal offence of his degree. He was supported by Mr. Pedler, Mr. Justice Rampini, and the Vice-Chancellor, who pointed out that such power was possessed by most of the English Universities. Mr. Justice Rampini quoted an instance in which a medical graduate, who had a female patient under his treatment, had most grossly abused his responsibility, and said that the University ought to exercise a disciplinary power in a case like this. Unfortunately however the leading native members of the Senate, including Mr. Justice Banerji and Raja Peari Mohun Mukerji, opposed the resolution. The Raja went the length of saying that a man's morality had nothing to do with his University degree. It is a regret that these leading native members

PRATIVASI,
April 23rd, 1900.

failed to understand that the fear of being publicly condemned would naturally exercise a salutary influence on a man's moral character. Those who are intimately acquainted with the inner working of the University know how little morality is appreciated by that body. A proposal of a reform of this nature is sure to be rejected in this way when the heart is fascinated by the lustful glance of immorality.

(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 17th, 1900.

23. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 17th April complains of water scarcity in the village Hât Kaira, within the jurisdiction of the Ghatail outpost in the Mymensingh district. The existing tanks are all old and dry up by the month of *Pous* or *Magh*, leaving the people without a drop of water in the hot season. The condition of the villagers has, therefore, become extremely deplorable. The District Board should cause the re-excavation of at least one tank in some convenient locality, where it may be made to serve the villages Kaira, Terbaria, and Bhadrabari.

MANBHUM,
April 17th, 1900.

24. A rate-payer of the Purulia Municipality in the Manbhumi district, writing in the *Manbhumi* [Purulia] of the 17th April, complains that though small-pox has been raging virulently in the place, the Municipal authorities have as yet done nothing to check the disease, the origin of which is to be traced to the filthy condition of the Manbazar road, Bholanath Babu's lane, Kalitola road, and the road running to the station. The whole town of Purulia has to depend for its water-supply on the Bucha *bunah*. But the railway company has nearly exhausted its water. The little water that remains is made so impure by the daily washing in it of some two hundred to two hundred and fifty heads of cattle and heaps of clothing soaked in alkaline matter as to become quite unfit for drinking purposes. Representations have been more than once made to the Municipal authorities, but without effect.

SANJIVANI,
April 19th, 1900.

25. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 19th April has the following:—

The conservancy of Calcutta. The Calcutta Municipality does not appear up to this time to have taken any efficient measures to keep the town clean. During the last ten years almost all departments of the Municipality have been strengthened by the appointment of new officers, but very little has been done to improve the conservancy or the health of the town. The Municipality has, in fact, done almost nothing to improve the sanitation of the native quarter, which requires careful looking after. There are many crowded places in the town where the roads are in a most filthy condition, and where the atmosphere is extremely foul. The light and heat of the sun seldom penetrate these places. And though these places require the supervision of the municipal officers more urgently than the healthy quarters, the Health Officer's men seldom visit them. It is in these places that epidemic diseases first make their appearance. If the Municipality take proper steps to stifle any such disease in its germ, diseases cannot spread to other quarters. But unfortunately, even when reports of plague, &c., are timely sent to the Health Department, the officers of that department never visit the infected houses promptly or take measures for their disinfection. There are in the town drains which are cleansed at long intervals, and streets and lanes which have not been swept and cleansed for a long time. The filth which is allowed to accumulate on these streets and lanes is extremely nauseating and injurious to passers-by and residents.

It is a matter of regret that with unlimited power at its disposal, and a large body of officers of all ranks at its command, the Municipality should fail to improve the extremely insanitary condition of some parts of the town. It is a matter of shame, too, that with such a large number of well-qualified officers in its service and such strict rules for the conduct of business, the Municipality should fail to do its work in a satisfactory manner. Some changes have become absolutely necessary in the Health Department. The present Health Officer is undoubtedly an able and qualified man, but his duties require to be re-arranged in some respects. His time and the time of his able assistants are now mostly spent either in the office or in the laboratory in

research work. They are therefore unable to look after the cleanliness and sanitation of the town. The municipal laboratory should be abolished. Its work should be made over to the Government chemical and bacteriological laboratory, the Municipality making an adequate subsidy. The money and labour thus saved should be devoted to the improvement of sanitation. If this is done, the rate-payers will feel that there is a Municipality in existence in Calcutta, and Calcutta will become a healthy town.

When Dr. Tonnere was the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality, the Municipality was neither so powerful nor so rich in men and money as it is now. Yet Dr. Tonnere, by his personal exertions, kept the town much cleaner than it now is. The health department under Dr. Tonnere was worked on a plan quite different from that now adopted. It is true Dr. Tonnere was not a learned man like Dr. Simpson or Dr. Cook, but the care he took to keep the town clean was admirable. He was indefatigable in the discharge of his duties. He drove about the town at all hours of the day, sometimes taking his meals in his carriage. The example of the chief made the subordinates equally mindful of their duty, and the town in Dr. Tonnere's time was a model of cleanliness. In the Health Department, as it now is, the subordinates appear to be quite irresponsible officers, and seem to have no fear of being called to account for neglect of duty.

26. The same paper says that Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, Local self-government in Assam Local Boards has introduced a change in the constitution of the Local Boards in his province, by reducing the number of members on a Board from twenty-four

to eighteen, because he thinks that work can be better done with a small number of men. In Bengal Sir Alexander Mackenzie inaugurated the scheme for placing the municipal administration of Calcutta in the hands of European merchants; and in Assam Mr. Cotton has taken steps to give the upper hand in the Local Boards to European planters. Of the eighteen members who will form a Local Board in Assam, six will be nominated official members, and in places in which there is much tea industry six will be elected by the tea planters, and only the remaining six will be elected by the natives. As in Calcutta, so in Assam, a blow has been struck at the root of local self-government by increasing the influence of Europeans in the local self government bodies. Mr. Cotton's proposal has received the Viceroy's sanction. The matter for regret is that Calcutta has lost its self-government through the efforts of the very officer who in Lord Ripon's time prepared with his own hands the draft of the liberal law of local self-government, and that Assam has lost its self-government at the hands of the man who at one time became so popular by writing *New India*. Verily, the country has fallen on evil times.

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes as follows:—

The Puri Municipality. Mr. Handley, the Civil Medical Officer of Puri, was the Chairman of the local Municipality.

He used to treat the Commissioners discourteously, and address them as he would address his servants. The Commissioners, who did not expect such treatment, reported the matter to the District Magistrate, who of course characterised Mr. Handley's conduct as unjust and ungentlemanly. The Commissioners thereupon called upon their Chairman to withdraw his statements and apologise. The Magistrate also requested Mr. Handley to apologise, but he refused to do so. Upon this the Commissioners called upon the Chairman to resign, but he refused to do so. At this time the matter was brought to the notice of the Divisional Commissioner, who reported it to the Government. This report was followed by Mr. Handley's resignation. Mr. Handley's resignation has been accepted, and the Commissioners have been required to elect the District Magistrate as their Chairman. It is a regret that this injury has been done to local self-government even under Sir John Woodburn's rule.

28. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes that a portion of the Gobra Musalman cemetery should be set apart for the burial of dead bodies which have undergone a *post-mortem* examination. These bodies are touched by *doms*, and they are neither washed nor are prayers said over them. The employés of the cemetery office often charge more than the fixed rate of burial expenses. This should draw the attention of the authorities.

SANJIVANI,
April 19th, 1900.

HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1900.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 20th, 1900.

BANGABHUMI,
April 24th, 1900.

29. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April understands that the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality has ordered that the existing municipal employés, as well as candidates for the municipal service, shall have to pass an examination in the Calcutta Municipal Act. This is no doubt strange. Should a knowledge of the municipal law be considered sufficient proof of efficiency as a municipal employé? The new rule will press especially hard upon old municipal employés, who are too old to appear in an examination. These men will have to suffer very much if, owing to their inability to pass the required test, they are dismissed from the municipal service.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 18th, 1900.

30. The *Sri Sri Veshnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th April complains that the *khas-mahal* authorities of Midnapore are causing great inconvenience to the people of Sakta mauza in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district, by ordering the fish of the "Rani Patna" tank to be sold. Catching of fish fouls the water of the tank, and makes it unfit for use for days. The tank was formerly the property of the widow of the late Raja Bahadur of Kisornagar, and the owner never used to sell its fish. The *khas-mahal* authorities have again issued a notice that the fish of the tank will be sold by public auction. It will be a great inconvenience to the public if water of the tank is fouled in this hot season when there is a water-scarcity in the village.

(h)—*General.*

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 18th, 1900.

31. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 18th April congratulates the Government on its impartiality in the distribution of the posts in its gift. It is desirable that merit should be rewarded, and by the appointment of Babu T. K. Ghose to the office of Inspector-General of Registration, Government has shown that it makes no distinction of race or creed in rewarding merit. The writer will be glad to see Babu Tarini Kumar distinguish himself in his new post.

KASIPUR NIVASI.

32. The same paper says that if the proposal of the Postal authorities to bring both the branch post offices in Ramchandrapur and in Khalisakota under the Barisal post office, and get both of them served by only one runner, is carried out, the arrangement will lead to a saving to Government of only six rupees a month, but will fail to remove the present inconvenience of the Ramchandrapur people in the matter of the despatch and delivery of the mails. Under the proposed arrangement the runner will have to leave Ramchandrapur at 9-30 A. M., and will be unable to return to the place from Khalisakota before 5 P. M. This will be no improvement on the present inconvenient arrangement, for those are the hours now fixed for the despatch and the delivery of the mails from and at Ramchandrapur respectively. The proposed arrangement is also likely to cause delay in the opening of the mail boxes in the neighbouring villages. There can be no objection to the placing of the two branch offices under the Barisal head office, with Narayanpur as the intermediate station for the deposit of mails. But the staff of runners should be maintained at its present strength.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 18th, 1900.

33. The *Sri Sri Veshnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th April writes as follows:—
Prayer for the extension of Sir If the rulers of India condescend to freely mix
Antony MacDonnell's term. with the people, study their feelings and sentiments, and acquaint themselves with their wants and grievances, the people are sure to worship them as gods. The name of a ruler generally inspires fear; but Sir Antony MacDonnell, the ruler of the North-Western Provinces, has become so popular that the people have prayed the Viceroy to extend the period of his service by another five years. In these days of famine and plague, great caution, consideration, and tact are required in a ruler, and Sir Antony MacDonnell possesses all these virtues. It is hoped that the prayer of the people of the North-Western Provinces will be granted.

34. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 19th April says that a number of apprentices are entertained in the office of the district

An officiating sub-registrarship in the Khulna district. An officiating sub-registrarship registrar of Khulna, and they have been serving for five, six, or seven years. Under the Circular No. 23,

dated the 16th July 1895, they are entitled to get any officiating appointments of sub-registrars that temporarily fall vacant in the district. Towards the end of 1899 the sub-registrar of Kachua applied for and obtained long leave, the district registrar appointing the senior apprentice in his office to officiate for the permanent incumbent with effect from the 1st December. In the meantime the Inspector-General of Registration appointed another man to officiate as the sub-registrar of Kachua. Though the district registrar pointed out the injustice that the Inspector-General's order would do to the apprentices in his office, he at last carried out the order. Such undue favouritism and interference on the part of the Inspector-General often leads to the supersession of the claims of persons who have a right to officiating appointments. In filling up permanent posts, also, the authorities of the department very often abuse their powers. It is certainly right for the Government to provide for the poor relatives of high families by appointing them as sub-registrars, but favouritism without discrimination is culpable.

35. A correspondent of the same paper has heard various complaints against the postmaster of the Senhati sub-post office in the

A postal complaint.

Pabna district. The postmaster lives at Maheswar-

pasha on the other bank of the river, and is often found absent from his duty. It is rumoured that his object is to show improvement in the income of the Daulatpur branch office, which is situated near his own village, at the cost of the Senhati suboffice. With this object in view he advises ignorant people of Senhati to purchase postage stamps and remit money-orders from the Daulatpur office. The Superintendent of Post Offices should make an enquiry into the above complaints, and should have the officer transferred from Senhati.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes that a public meeting

Prayer for the extension of Sir was lately held at Benares, at which a resolution was adopted, praying for the extension of Sir Antony MacDonnell's term. was adopted, praying for the extension of Sir Antony MacDonnell's period of service. Sir Antony's

sympathetic administration has made him popular. It is hoped that the authorities will grant the prayer of the public.

37. The same paper has the following on the Welby Commission's report:—

The Welby Commission's report. The delay which the Commission was making in publishing the report had made the public despair of ever seeing it published. Many went the length of saying that the Commission was a huge failure. Fortunately however all these dark anticipations have been falsified. One of course is not expected to find in the report a full play of impartiality and good sense, but it must be admitted that the report has done some good to the country.

In the opinion of the Commission, the objection to the raising of loans in England is of no value, inasmuch as a large portion of even the rupee loan raised in India has been contributed by English capitalists. The Commission has evidently missed the point of the objection against the sterling loan. The sterling loan, unlike the rupee loan, comes under the influence of the fluctuation in the exchange market. It is a regret that the Commission has not paid due attention to this point.

In the opinion of the Commission it is a mistake to think that the educational expenditure of India, amounting as it does to only one crore and fifty lakhs, is enormous. The Commission's recommendations regarding the home charges and the Aden fort charges and the English embassy in Persia are equitable.

38. The same paper complains that letters and other postal communications

A postal complaint.

are delivered only twice a week in Amjhuli, a village in the Nadia district.

39. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 20th April has heard many complaints

Plague examination at the Seal-dah station.

against the manner in which plague examination is conducted at the Sealdah station. The greatest source of inconvenience to the third and intermediate class passengers is the rule requiring them to enter the platform, for the

KHULNA,
April 19th, 1900.

KHULNA,

HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1900.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.
SAMAY,
April 20th, 1900.

purposes of the examination, through one door. This causes inconceivable hardship, specially to women and invalids. A similar rule is also in force at Howrah.

The authorities should provide separate entrances for third class passengers, intermediate class passengers, and female passengers, respectively.

BASIRHAT SUHRID,
April 21st, 1900.

40. The *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 21st April complains of mismanagement in the Basirhat post office. On the 16th March last the postal clerks forgot to place the letters in the mail bag despatched to village Arhbalia. The letters were despatched late, thereby causing great inconvenience to the village people.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SANJIVANI,
April 19th, 1900.

41. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes as follows:—

The amended Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

In the amended Assam Labour and Emigration Bill a clause has been inserted with the object of protecting uneducated and ignorant women from the snares which *arkatis* prepared for them. The clause provides that the consent of the husband or other competent guardian of a woman must be obtained before her name can be registered as a cooly. At first sight the clause may appear sufficient for the purpose of checking the *arkatis*. But in operation it will hardly serve that purpose. A case which came to our notice at the Itakhola station on the Assam-Bengal Railway on the 12th April last will illustrate our meaning. On that date we noticed a Bengali woman among the coolies who were made to alight from the train at the station for plague examination. On being asked the woman said that she was going with her husband as a cooly to the Chandkhira tea garden. Later on a man said to us:—"Look, how that poor woman is being enticed away as a cooly; the man whom she calls her husband can never be her husband." On enquiry we learnt that the woman's name was Ajodhya, and that an ill-looking cooly was her reported husband. She was reported to have come from village Saringa in the Bankura district. But as we could not believe what the woman said, we pressed her to tell the truth without the least fear; and then she said that her name was Bidhu; that she was a resident of village Lalgher within the jurisdiction of the Bilpara thana in the Bankura district; that her father's name was Bansi Majhi, that her mother was alive, and that she was a widow.

How will the law protect women who are seduced in this manner?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HITAVADI,
April 20th, 1900.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes that the famine has assumed a serious aspect on the north of the Nerbudda. It is true that the Government has made ample provision for relieving the distress, but still people are dying from starvation. It is also complained that the authorities are realising the land revenue with a high hand. It will be a great discredit to the Government if this report proves true.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI.

43. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April has the following:—

Probable effects of European race-partiality. Englishmen in India often show an undue sympathy with their countrymen. A European kicks a native to death, but in the Sessions Court a European jury acquit him. Is not race-partiality at the root of this? A European soldier kills a native servant or a punkha-puller, confesses his crime, and yet, thanks to the partiality of the European jury, he is let off scotfree. Take the Rajabala case. Did not the European jury at first acquit the European offenders in that case? Were not the jury influenced by race-partiality in arriving at their verdict? Was not this improper race-partiality to account for the acquittal of the European soldiers in the Rangoon case also? There is no doubt that this race-partiality is becoming more and more pronounced among the Europeans in India.

The predominance of race-partiality is sure to stifle all virtues. Influenced by race-partiality, a man does not hesitate to sacrifice truth and justice in order to protect even a guilty countryman. He does not care whether by his conduct the sufferings of the injured are increased. Race-partiality makes him callous and blind, and his sole care is to protect his countrymen. This race-partiality is causing untold evil to the country.

While race-partiality is the vice of Englishmen in India, a complete want of sympathy with their countrymen is the vice of the Indian people. If Englishmen in India are not cured of this vice of race-partiality, the permanency of British rule in this country will not be ensured, and the relation between the rulers and the ruled will not be based on mutual love and sympathy. British guns will not ensure the permanency of British rule. But let that rule be based on the loyalty of the Indian people, and its permanency will be ensured. The expression of loyalty which owes its origin to brute force and compulsion is not and cannot be sincere. The slackening of the bond of loyalty, which alone can keep the rulers and the ruled bound to each other, is sure to endanger the safety and permanency of British rule.

Alexander and Bonaparte, Caesar and Charlemagne, once ruled this world. The power of Rome, the bravery of Greece, the commerce of Carthage, once struck terror into the heart of the then civilised world. But where is their greatness, their power, their bravery, gone? They are swallowed up in eternity, and their greatness is now mere matter of history. Small Greece annihilated the powerful Persian hordes, and with the death of Alexander the Macedonian Empire fell to pieces. The history of Roman greatness now reads like a romance. But why go so far? In India empire after empire rose and disappeared, and the history of their greatness is now a dream. Where is that powerful Mogul Empire the traces of whose greatness still exist? It was the slackening of the bond of sympathy between the rulers and the ruled which brought about the fall of the Mogul Empire. The race-partiality of Englishmen in India, to which we must attribute the failure of justice which takes place whenever a European is accused by a native, is slowly but steadily undermining the stability of British rule. Let both the Government and the people beware.

It should be the first and foremost care of the Government to prevent miscarriage of justice through race-partiality. The people on their part should unite and try their best to ensure the conviction of guilty Europeans. It often happens that the native complainant is poor and cannot pay to engage a good lawyer. In such cases it should be the duty of every educated native to help him with money and counsel. If we cannot do this, we shall deserve to be oppressed and maltreated.

URIYA PAPERS.

44. Referring to the observation of Mr. Barker, made in connection with

A European officer abusing Bengalis. the leave application of a clerk belonging to the Nagpur branch of the Comptroller's office that

the Bengalis are liars, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini*

(Bamra) of the 11th April points out that this was a most injudicious act on his part, as it must have offended the Bengalis very much. The writer adds that the higher authorities ought to take notice of such improper and injudicious conduct on the part of their subordinates, who must not be allowed to sow the seeds of enmity and hatred among the people with whose interests their own are indissolubly blended together.

45. Referring to the immense loss of cattle incurred by the famished

Loss of cattle in the Central Provinces. people in the Sambalpur district of the Central Provinces, the same paper points out that the local authorities ought to take such steps as to provide

the cultivators with bullocks and implements of agriculture after the rains set in, otherwise many acres of culturable land will remain uncultivated.

ASSAM PAPERS.

46. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 17th April has the following :—

Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, will go on three months' furlough, and Mr. Smeaton,

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 11th, 1900.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

PARIDARSAK,
April 17th, 1900.

a member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, will officiate for him.

Under Mr. Cotton's rule we have lived happily and enjoyed every comfort and convenience. The highminded and generous Chief Commissioner has earned the gratitude of every section of the Assam people by his able and impartial administration of the province. It was after a long time that Assam had the good fortune to get a just, highminded, sympathetic, and affable ruler like Mr. Cotton.

Many unfortunate circumstances prevented Mr. Cotton's fully carrying out the noble projects he had chalked out for himself when ascending the *gadi*. And it is extremely creditable to him that in spite of the earthquake of 1897, the havoc made by malaria and *kálá ázár*, the Mishmi Expedition, and many other matters affecting the province which engrossed his attention, he was able to apply himself with indomitable energy and perseverance to the introduction of reforms in almost every branch of the Assam Administration.

47. The same paper has the following :—

The editor of the *Paridarsak* and the Mussalmans of Sylhet. In the issue of this paper for the 7th April last, a letter was published in English concerning the site of a new mosque about to be erected in Sylhet town (Report on Native Papers for 14th April, paragraph 78). The publication of the letter has set on foot a mild agitation in the town. Many Musalmans of the place regard the editor's action in giving publicity to it as a serious offence, and have threatened him in various ways. A certain Musalman police officer rebuked the editor, and said that the letter might be the cause of a serious riot in Sylhet. Another Musalman gentleman sent for the editor and asked him to explain why he had published the letter in his paper. On the editor replying that he was in no way responsible for the opinions expressed in his paper by correspondents, the Musalman gentleman grew angry and threatened to have the editor well thrashed whenever an opportunity presented itself. The editor after this had no alternative but to take to his heels. If necessary, we shall publish the names of the police officer and the other gentleman. In the meantime we request the Musalman community to calmly consider if the editor has really done anything wrong by publishing the letter.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 28th April 1900.